

NO. 293

to his care Sweden, 1819

BANGOR WHIG.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1841.

THE APPORTIONMENT.

The Locofoco papers in this State have been for some time ringing with an out and yell of disapprobation, in general terms, against the apportionment of representatives by the last Legislature. Town meetings have been convened, the most furious speakers have been employed in making and appeals to the prejudices and passions of the hearers by the most reckless and unscrupulous demagogues; party phrensy has done its worst to arouse indignation and to shut out and cloud over the plain, simple, undisturbed truth in the matter. We have patiently waited to discover, if possible, in all this tempest of passion and madness, any real objection that could be brought against the apportionment. But we have waited in vain.

The following resolves are a good specimen of the wild clamor, which interested and blind party leaders of locofocoism, have raised against the apportionment. These resolves were passed at what is called a "town meeting" in Buckfield, on which occasion the following list of speakers figured "plenty large," viz. Messrs. Y. D. Paris, Noah Prince, Col. Parsons and Wm. B. Bennett, of Buckfield, and for foreign aid the meeting had Capt. J. Tobin of Hartford and Col. Andrews of Turner.

Resolved, That as Citizens of Maine, we regard all laws enacted by our Legislature as binding upon us provided the same be consonant with the letter or spirit of the Constitution; but when by the passage of any Act that sacred instrument is disregarded and violated, we deem that the Legislature has ceased to be the voice of a party though it may be dignified by the title of a Legislative Act.

Resolved, That we deem the doings of our last Legislature in passing Resolves apportioning Senators and Representatives throughout the State a palpable violation of the Constitution and not binding on the people; it is therefore, our duty to proceed at the next election as though such Resolves had never passed.

Resolved, That the last Legislature by denying to the people of this town the right to choose a representative to the next Legislature manifested a total disregard to all Constitutional obligations—committed a flagrant outrage upon our right, and by an assumption of power unknown to the people of this country since the desperate Acts of the British Parliament wrested from us the elective franchise that sacred prerogative of freemen.

Resolved, That it is the Constitutional right and duty of the inhabitants of the town of Buckfield, to be represented in the next Legislature, and that the Election of this town are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants to assemble at the Town House on the 2d Monday of Sept. next, to give in their votes for a Representative to the next Legislature.

The foregoing resolves are of such a character as to merit the calm attention of every lover of liberty and law. They strike at the foundations of law and order, and were designed to influence without enlightening. Admit the sentiment of these resolves in practice, and the power of our political association is reduced to a rope of sand. Men who could deliberately sit down and pen such sentiments, and advocate them before a convention of freemen, are fit for stratagem and spoils. They would not hesitate to ruin when they cannot rule, to overturn the basis of civil society in the hope of finding security for themselves in the confusion of others, or willingly perish in a general destruction of their own estate. It is almost needless to ask if such men are fit advisers of the people, or if a free people in our beloved country and enlightened age, can approve a deliberately sanctioned measure. This prodigious and infamous use of influence, by these leaders, must have shorn them of their strength; and the sober discrimination, of intelligent and honest men will cause them to recoil with disgust at such political depravity and consummate folly. We have no fears, therefore of any general harm arising from the resolves.

But what are the facts in reference to the apportionment that should have called forth so much wrath? The Constitution of our State provides, that "whenever any town or towns, plantation or plantations not entitled to elect a representative shall determine against a classification with any other town or plantation, the Legislature may, at each apportionment of representatives, on the application of such town or plantation, authorize it to elect a representative for such portion of time and such periods, as shall be equal to its portion of representation; and the right of representation, so established, shall not be altered until the next general apportionment." It being a constitutional duty resting upon the Legislature to grant a separate representation in cases where application is made, it follows as a matter of course that a classification of towns, in the county, not having a sufficient number of inhabitants to elect a representative, must alternate, instead of being classed, although they might even prefer to be classed, with the number of representatives would not be equal. A number of towns in Oxford county requested a separate representation, and were granted to elect a representative, and in granting them a separate representation there was no other just way to deprive of Buckfield but to vote in the opposite way. The Legislature had the right to do this, and the right to do this was equal, neither could it be otherwise. The Legislature had the right to do this, and the right to do this was equal, neither could it be otherwise. The Legislature had the right to do this, and the right to do this was equal, neither could it be otherwise.

to Buckfield, and preferred to an examination of the apportionment generally. In order to be clearly understood and to show at a glance the even handed justice of the apportionment, we have prepared the following table, showing the population, number of representatives of each political party, taking the vote of September last as a test of parties, the average number of inhabitants in each district, and the number of inhabitants in towns of each party included in districts of the opposite party.

COUNTY OF		Population of Whig District.	No. of Whig Districts	Average No. of Inhabitants of Whig Districts.	Population of Locofoco Districts.	No. of Locofoco Districts.	Average No. of Inhabitants of Locofoco Districts.	No. of Inhabitants of Whig towns in Locofoco Districts.	No. of Inhabitants of Locofoco towns in Whig Districts.
York	33,545	9	2,614	30,417	2	2,232	15,030		
Cum gratia	45,524	7	2,775	63,367	7	2,463			
Union	52,464	7	2,747	47,688	7	2,110			
Oxford	22,464	4	2,615	33,384	3	2,770			
Kennebec	32,990	5	2,632	57,631	2	2,881			
Sebec	22,464	9	2,483	33,384	3	2,770			
Franklin	7,464	3	2,486	55,667	5	2,677			
W. & C.				55,667	5	2,677			
Thermal	16,702	7	2,474	27,247	7	2,390			
Sebec	9,381	2	2,388	40,644	4	2,506			
Washington	28,464	9	2,445	47,688	7	2,463			
Arden				3,769	3	1,255			
Thermal	2,309	4	2,334	3,769	2	1,889			
York	235,747	61	2,547	235,670	59	2,477	234,411		

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